



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
(215) 861-8200

For Immediate Release

December 17, 2007

CITY EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH EXTORTION

PHILADELPHIA - U.S. Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an information¹ charging Theresa Pinkett, an employee of the City of Philadelphia, with extorting over \$5,000 in cash and a cell phone in exchange for services she was required to provide as a City employee. From 2001 to 2003, Pinkett was a Constituent Services Representative for Councilperson Donna Reed Miller, responsible for helping City residents in her district with issues relating to the City. From September 2006 to at least December 2006, Pinkett was a Community Specialist, in the Community Affairs Division, for the City Controller's Office, with similar responsibilities involving all City residents. The information alleges that in those roles, Pinkett provided the assistance and unlawfully received payments of cash and a cell phone in exchange for her assistance. This information does not allege wrongdoing by others in the offices of the Councilperson or the Controller.

"At any level, abusing one's public position for personal gain is illegal and can not be tolerated. The citizens and taxpayers of Philadelphia deserve the honest and faithful services of public employees," said Meehan.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Theresa Pinkett	Philadelphia, PA	53 years old

If convicted, Pinkett faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, three years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah L. Grieb.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA MEDIA CONTACT
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street 215-861-8525
Philadelphia, PA 19106

COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.